POINT Board of Directors Meeting March 15, 1972 Woodside, Ca

Present:
Dick Baker, Elijah
Lois Brand
Stewart Brand
Bill English
Huey Johnson
Larry Klein
Jerry Mander
Mike Phillips ✓
Dick Raymond
Diana Shugart
Tom Silk

The meeting was held in Stewart & Lois's tipi in Woodside, and began with an informal discussion about possible agenda items. Stewart asked for reports from all Board members on their agents and their discretionary funds:

Dick: Hasn't heard from Fred Moore recently. Has given $3000 to Life Farm, and feels good about it, feels good about having discretionary funds to work with, but not about dealing with proposals.

Diana: Reports briefly on self as an agent. Hasn't started yet, plans to travel, then do some sort of women's publishing venture.

Mike: Everyone's seen Alice's report. I need advice on whether or not to use some discretionary funds for Turtle Island project.

Bill: Will be passing out a report from Janet F. Has a new agent, Ted Baston, who's a physicist. He believes that quantum mechanics is inadequate to explain the universe, and is finding new approaches; he also sees space/time relationships as an abstraction of reality. Has committed funds only to Stockholm so far, and isn't comfortable with saying "no" yet.

Huey: Jim Morgan is hitting very hard as an agent - his reports are being distributed to everyone. He wants to expand his program to include Montana and Wyoming, as well as Idaho, and maybe include other activists too. Greg Archibald, a new agent is just getting started on a new, exciting program. On myself as an agent, I've been assisting Stewart & Dick on the Stockholm project, and have used some of the agent grant. I'm worried about Point being attacked, and especially about legal protection for Jim's

position as an activist. I've used, out of discretionary funds, $1000 to delve into the background of one organization, and $2500 to help unify a ghetto art and ecology program. Made one mistake - I gave a young lady money to go to Stockholm (Melissa Savage).

Stewart: It's only "bad" because of the money already committed to Life ~~Form~~ Farm for such expenses, and inadequate 'through channels' procedure.

There was a brief discussion on legal procedures for relegating discretionary funds. Larry said that the Board is legally responsible for decisions made by Directors, but that reports back to the Board are mainly what's needed. There was a general agreement that everyone likes to know what everyone else is up to anyway. Back to reports:

Stewart: Bill Goetz is displaying a lot of (too much) ardor (Webster: "1. emotional warmth; passion; eagerness; enthusiasm; zeal."). He's still working on his Bufano project, plans to start his trip in June. I haven't appointed a second agent, because I'm feeling cautious. Gave $3000 to the Zen Carpenters (Lois said, "It's the best feeling check I've written"); will give some to Stockholm, especially to see that the Hog Farm gets over there; $4000 to J.D. Smith for his tool truck project; $3000 to Stella Leach to help raise money for the Traditional American Indians - a mistake, as she's used the money as a political clout. I feel good about the discretionary funds in general, and especially about relating on a one to one basis with the other Directors (as opposed to the meeting process), feel ok about saying no, like the personal involvement with where the money goes.

Jerry: Likes having the discretionary funds, no actual committments yet, though some promises, am interested in using all the $40,000 for non-agent grants. Possible uses so far for discretionary funds are 1. The Marijuana Educational Fund, 2.First People's New Program in S.F., 3. partial support of 1st phase of a mammoth research project on violence by and to police,

4. definitely $5-10,000 to San Francisco Women's Center, 5. three Esalen-related projects -a. $1,000 (definitely) to the staff at Esalen to encourag an in-house revolution, b. $1,000 to the Esalen school, c. $5,000 to the parapsychology project, as per their revised proposal. Would like help from the other directors for a total of $14,000. 6. 3 or 4 ads in the NY Times, through the Public Interest Communications Agency. The projected ads would be one on the consciousness of whales, involving a coalition of causes, such as Esalen, Friends of the Earth, etc. One having to do with separating ourselves from other living things, such as in the use of plastic grass. One male drop-out ad. One no-growth economics ad, maybe very serious. Agent Joan McIntyre has had her life changed by receiving the grant, and is getting started on whale project - she views dolphins as the people of the sea, and whales as the deities. She's trying to get foundatio money now.

Stewart: Wants reactions to Jerry's request to use the whole 40 thou as discretionary funds.

Bill: Sometimes it's a fine line between projects and agents.

Mike: Is still thinking.

Huey: Likes agents because of the human dynamics, won't vote against the idea, but would prefer sticking to the 25+15 idea.

Dick: We need to revise our agent idea, maybe smaller sums, shorter periods of time, maybe a broader concept, but I don't want to entirely give up on the idea yet - we need more time to see how it's going to work out.

Jerry: Sometimes it's best to give it to a person, sometimes an organizatio

Stewart: So far the "ecology agents" are working best, and it's still a good idea as a faith builder, per Pierre; essentially it's love money, which can get tricky with friends, perhaps less so if the money goes to their organization instead. Suppose I wanted to do five agents, rather than

one, with the $15,000?

Mike: Then we'd have to consider it conceptually different from the original agent idea.

Stewart: It could personalize the concept more, and possibly be used to get more out of agents.

Mike: I like it as an experiment.

Jerry: It's also just a further discretionary idea, as is my idea.

Huey: I like the discipline of sticking to the rules we've made, because there's never enough philanthropy to take care of the world. Lots of trouble has been caused in this world by changing course ships in mid-stream.

Jerry: And lots of trouble has been caused by not changing course when you need to.

Huey: What about our two-shit idea?

Jerry: We've already shat; we're talking about the definition of the shit.

Bill: If we allow for Jerry's idea, it should work both ways - that agent money could be used for projects and vice versa, so that each Director essentially has a discretionary fund of $40,000.

An initial poll of the group yields the following on the idea of each Director being able to consider that he has a $40,000 discretionary fund:

Dick: Against it, because of administrative expenses, for one thing, and sticking to the original experiment.

Jerry: For it, resents having to take part in Dick's experiment - we should each have our own experiment, and thus a wider variety.

Mike: Against it. Mostly interested in whether or not the Board can say N

Bill: Ok to let Jerry do it; I want to stick to 25+15 for myself.

Stewart: Against, because the original experiment isn't finished, & we can all try to improvise within it.

Dick: Has decided to let Jerry be the one exception; Bill agrees.

There's some more discussion on the issue, Jerry offers to trade Huey a $15K agent for $15K discretionary funds; Huey says he'll think about it, then changes his mind, and says he'd like to Board to make a decision about it. Bill feels it's a mistake to try and handle it as policy, we should just vote on Jerry's idea for him. Stewart thinks it's worth one of us doing it differently, for the sake of experimentation, either through a Board decision or through individual wrangling/swapping; says it's a bit like Washington telling San Francisco to lay their streets out in a grid - can we give Jerry enough space to go around the hills?

Mike: Wrong analogy, in that we don't know that SF is hilly yet.

Stewart & Jerry: Yes, we do!

Huey: Resents having the group process stopped by this issue.

Jerry: Feels strongly about maintaining the philosophical position of not wanting to be part of an organization that can't stop its processes.

A straw vote is taken: Dick, Bill, Stewart, and Jerry are for it; Mike and Huey are against it, so it fails to pass since there isn't a consensus.

Stewart: Is there a consensus on being able to divide up the $15K agent money?

Everyone agrees yes.

Dick: And Jerry is still free to bargain with us.

There's a long discussion on the Life Form (Stockholm) project; see the proposal (either attached or soon to come). We stopped for lunch in the sunshine, and Dick Baker, Elijah For a Day, arrives. He's introduced as the meeting begins again, and says that "right survival" is the main focus of the Zen Center, and that they're interested in what kind of human being survives. The discussion of Life Form continues, with Dick describing the project as a game called "Steal the Cottage Cheese", the idea being to keep putting cottage cheese in and keep it going out, at a more or less equal rate, so that you don't get spoiled cottage cheese at the end.

sports), the latter category including Dick himself, and Huey. Funds and a good budget are needed - Point has $10,000 committed so far.

Stewart: Would like the Board to relate to Life Form with some kind of financial guarantee beyond the $10K .

Dick: The budget should run between $50-100,000, maybe around $85K.

Stewart: If it's over $100K we've made a dreadful mistake! How about an additional $40,000 guarantee from Point, but keep it as somewhat of a secret?

Huey: The original $10K should help you raise the rest.

Stewart: We need the guarantee mostly so we can move ahead without having to use too much energy to raise money right now.

Huey: If we do it, can we break it down, budget-wise, e.g. $20K to Barry Commoner, or $15K, if he's asking for $30K?

Dick: There are budgetary overlaps between Commoner's program and Life Form, so that would be complicated. The philosophical point is whether or not Point wants to consider Stockholm its major project for the year. Does everyone feel good about the project?

Jerry: Feels vague, questions the media impact.

Stewart: Has taken me about 3 weeks to feel better & better about it. It feels unique in that I have the feeling that the people working together on this one are going to be working together for years to come - we're in a weird soup together. Also it's a "doing together" rather than a "hanging out together" project, a "work party", with a lot of groups converging.

Mike: Doesn't see it as a full year project, and it would change the concept of Point into being almost an "operating foundation" if the Board takes it on as its own project.

Bill: It's a great idea, and it's urgent to do it now. I'm for the guaran-

Dick: If it's a committment from the whole Board, maybe Point should support it, rather than the support coming out of discretionary funds.

Stewart: Can we decide on opening up Life Form with the $10,000 out of

discretionary funds, with an additional $40,000 to be guaranteed by Point, with the hope that it won't be used?

There's a consensus, and it is

Resolved: That POINT advance $10,000 to Life Form to begin its program, and further agrees to supply and additional $40,000 if emergency demands, to be used at the discretion of Dick Raymond. It is further resolved that the Board of Directors of POINT believes that the Life Form project and the Stockholm Conference will directly benefit the ecology of the United States of America.

There followed a discussion about legalities, the possibility of self-dealing, the IRS, etc. Tom Silk had been invited by Huey to present a different and more conservative legal position than Larry's. Tom began by saying that since Point isn't yet established as a public charity, itis procedures may be risky. Copies of his research and opinions were passed around. He said we need to assume that the Attorney General would bring a suit against Point if he knew what it was doing, and proposed that "agent funds" going to Board members be conduited through another organization, specifically, the Regional Young Adults project. Stewart asked if Directors could be considered as staff instead. Larry said that the present status of Point in regard to the IRS is a minor concern, and he isn't worried about it. He believes that there is a rightful concern about "self-dealing", but that he felt the organization had wanted to take risks and that he was willing to try to find a way, even a risky one, rather than just say "no", we can't do it." Tom feels more cautious because ideological organizations are never hit because of their ideologies; they'r hit on small fuck-ups (the chicago gangsters were gotten on tax laws, not criminal laws). We should take care of business, so that if they attack us, they can't get us on technicalities. There was discussion of consideri Directors as salaried personnel, rather than agents.

Tom: My main point is that we should consider Point a private foundation until the IRS says we can be a public charity.

Huey: It's like going to sea without a lifeboat, because we <u>are</u> going to make waves.

Stewart: The other court we're being tried in is that of public opinion - the media & the grapevine, and the conduit idea looks worse there than being salaried, or compensated for services.

Jerry: It <u>is</u> compensation - I couldn't be doing this if I weren't getting paid for it.

Tom: The problem is that if each director is also a staff person, it just <u>looks</u> bad. You've got something you need to defend. Maybe we should consider each Director individually.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, says everyone; Larry agrees. So be it.

Storytelling time begins with Dick Baker talking about the Zen Carpenters and the Zen Center. They're trying to create an organization that will be economically viable, and viable in terms of our society; and their basic premises are that 1. everything is interdependent and 1. everything change For instance, in the practice of charity, when you give something away, you are giving to yourself. There are enormous tensions, but they are the most creative forces we have. Suzuki Roshi's two principles were that there is always a solution, and that no pettiness was allowed, and the Center still tries to live by these. Buddhist monasteries are the oldest existing institutions, so we look to them for renewal, as models, and as outstanding figures. There was a switch back to legal matters, and Dick pointed out that we obviously need to reverse the Zen maxim, and consider that in givin to ourselves, we're giving to others. It's decided to consider Dick, Stewart, and Jerry as staff, Mike and Bill as expenditures for expenses, and Huey's grant to be channelled through another foundation.

Mike reported on his creativity net. "Whatever mystical force that told me to do it, told me I'd done it", so he decided to quit. 1000 people were the "phone" part. So far

contacted, 66 people were named 3 or more times, 22 - 5 or more, and 11-7 or more. They'll all be sent a letter asking what to do with the list of names.

Stewart told about 3 offers he's had to make a Whole Earth Catalog-related film. Marlon Brando, yes. Playboy, no. Maureen Orth, maybe, for 26 half-hour t.v. shows.

Stewart: Any more meetings before the summer?

No response.

Dick: I guess I host the next one in the fall. Perhaps we'll all meet in Stockholm.

The meeting was adjourned, to be followed by saunas and dinner.

Submitted by,

Diana Shugart

Point has officially received it's confermation from the IRS that it's a 501-C-3 has been approved. LB